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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, Maryland 20205

February 4, 1983

Dr. Robert Hockett
Council for Tobacco Research
Ninth Floor
110 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022

Dear Dr. Hockett:

As I told you on the telephone, I would like the Council for Tobacco Research to consider providing partial support for a Research Conference on "Mechanisms of Carcinogenesis" which is being organized under the auspices of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). At the request of FASEB, the Conference will be chaired by myself and by Dr. Paul Neiman, who is the Associate Director for Scientific Research at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle. We have commitments from an outstanding group of speakers (please see the enclosed list) who will attend the Conference if their expenses are covered.

The Conference, which will be held at the Vermont Academy in Saxton's River, Vermont, from July 24 to 29, 1983, will have a format similar to that of the Gordon Research Conferences. There will be 36 invited speakers and about 115 other attendees. In order to encourage the presentation of new information and new hypothesis and to stimulate the discussion of new avenues of research, the proceedings of the Conference will be "off the record." Publication of the proceedings is therefore not permitted.

We are seeking funds to cover the payment of fees and travel expenses (coach seats for air travel) for the invited speakers. The fee for attending the Conference will be $230, which will cover the cost of registration, food and lodging at the Vermont Academy. The invited speakers are expected to be present for the entire week of the Conference. No honoraria will be given. We estimate the total cost for the speakers to be $24,000. FASEB has provided a total of $5,500, which is currently the only source of funding. We are therefore seeking additional sources of support. Because of the strong commitment which the Council has shown to fundamental aspects of cancer research, we believe that it would be appropriate for you to consider supporting this meeting. Although we would be pleased for you to consider providing the entire $18,500 which is needed, $5,000 in support would go a long way towards ensuring a successful Conference.

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Dr. Neiman and I believe that the Conference will fill an important need by permitting an outstanding group of scientists to spend a week in a relatively isolated location with almost unlimited opportunity for discussion. We have attempted to develop a format which will provide a diverse yet thematic coverage of the problem of mechanisms of carcinogenesis. The recent discovery of a series of transforming genes associated specifically with human and animal tumor cells, coupled with the progress made in identifying and characterizing genes of cellular origin which are exploited by neoplasia inducing viruses, presents major new opportunities for progress in the field of carcinogenesis. We have therefore arranged to bring leaders in these new areas together with investigators with diverse but highly relevant interests and approaches. These will include tumor biologists, viral oncologists, drosophila and mammallian geneticists, molecular biologists who examine the control of gene expression and the introduction of macromolecules into cells, and investigators who study tumor induction and promotion by chemicals. We believe that a meeting of this type, occurring at this time, will be useful in maintaining the productive momentum which is building in fundamental cancer research.

There will be nine sessions for oral presentations during the Conference. The invited speakers will discuss their recent work during these sessions. The organization of each session and the speakers is enclosed with this letter. Each session will have a Chairperson who will introduce the subject. Posters, to be presented by the other participants, will be another important component of the Conference. The poster sessions will be held early in the week so information presented at them can be discussed throughout the meeting.

Because attendance at the Conference is limited to 150, only 115 applications for attendance can be accepted. Since it is likely that the meeting will be oversubscribed, selection will be made to provide an appropriate mix of junior and senior scientists, to provide a broad geographical representation so that the ideas and concepts discussed at the meeting will be diseminated widely, and to encourage participants from university, industrial, governmental and foreign laboratories.

If you need any further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Douglas R. Lowy, M.D.
Deputy Chief, Dermatology Branch
National Cancer Institute
Building 37, Room 1B-26
Bethesda, MD 20205

DRL:vz
Enclosures
cc: Dr. Krauss, FASEB

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xskv0000